

# Revive selfless spirit of 1946, says Abdullah

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi wants Umno to revive the selfless spirit of its founding in 1946 and continue leading the country for the next 50 years.

"I hope that when we reach 100 years of independence, Umno will still be strong, stable and in power with the other component parties of the Barisan Nasional," he said at the party's 61st anniversary celebration at the Putra World Trade Centre yesterday.

"The Umno agenda is an endless one.

"We will continue our struggle as long as there are stars and the moon in the sky and the earth beneath our feet," said Abdullah.

"Umno will be around as long as the Malay race exists," he vowed.

Abdullah, the Umno president, said members had an obligation to preserve the party's integrity and purpose.

He asked all party members

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*Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi  
Prime Minister and Umno president*

to bolster unity so that they would remain the one and only organisation that truly champions the cause of the Malays.

“Our duty to the next generation of Malays is to bestow our legacy, to give them a solid Umno.”

Earlier, the estimated 3,000 party faithful present, including deputy president Datuk

Seri Najib Razak and the supreme council, watched a 30-minute video of Umno's history, which Abdullah later said had made him emotional.

The screening depicted the beginnings of the Malay resistance to the Malayan Union, leading eventually to Umno's formation at the Istana Besar Johor on May 11, 1946.

The screening also compared the early Umno pioneers with modern-day members, some of whom would attend party functions only if an allowance was provided.

At a press conference after his speech, Abdullah said it was the practice to contribute small sums for members' travel costs.

"There are, however, members who will work only if there is a payment. That kind of attitude should change," he said.

"I was crying quietly during the video.

"The stories reminded me of how my family pawned their land and padi fields so they could have money to travel and meet others who wanted to fight for independence."